

ROMULUS ROMAN

75¢

Racetrack promoters talk up Michigan Downs

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

Promoters of an \$80-\$100 million racetrack proposed for Romulus presented their plans to city officials last week, even as the firm awaits a decision from the state racing commission on a license application. The track, to be called Michigan Downs, is proposed for a location north of I-94.

The track, which would take 18 to 36 months to build, would offer live horse racing and simulcast races from other tracks across the country. The property is owned by Kojaijan Companies, a developer in Bloomfield Hills.

"We've applied for a license, and there are a couple of things that are important. One is to have a piece of real estate, which we have. Obviously, as we press the racing commission to get this



Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) of Aurora, Ontario, the largest operator of racetracks in North America, wants to build a multi-million-dollar facility in Romulus. Thoroughbred racetracks, like this MEC track at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale, Fla., are a source of employment and tax revenues for communities across the country. Photo courtesy MEC

license through, it's helpful to know that city council is supportive of what we're trying to do," said Jim McAlpine, president and CEO of Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) of

Aurora, Ontario.

"We want to construct a world-class entertainment facility in Romulus for thoroughbred and harness racing," McAlpine said. "We firmly believe a develop-

ment of this nature is a destination point" for the city.

The proposal includes the construction of a racetrack on 212 acres north of I-94, east of Vining Road, west of Wickham

Road and south of Smith Road. The firm plans to construct a 150,000-square-foot state-of-the-art grandstand, entertainment

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Department of Public Works director retires after 37 years with Romulus

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

"I've enjoyed the challenges. Every day's different and I've never been bored," said Dave Paul, former director of the Romulus Department of Public Works. Paul retired Friday after working in various capacities for the city for more than 37 years.

Co-workers surprised Paul with a retirement party on his last day at the DPW.

Paul, 65, has witnessed a lot of changes in the business in his almost half century of public ser-

vice, such as major equipment improvements.

"When I first started, we'd shove rods into the sewers to clean them. Now we use a high-pressure vacuum," he said. "The machinery involved in water taps has also improved."

The switch from cable to hydraulic equipment in many types of machinery revolutionized the industry, Paul said. "We have greater power and can go deeper into the sewers now."

Equipment used for locating water shutoffs and measuring devices advanced as well,

according to Paul.

A native of Detroit, Paul's father worked at Burroughs, now UNISYS, building adding machines in pre-computer days. His mother was a housewife and worked at various department stores in the area. They moved to Livonia, where he graduated from the former Bentley High School in 1956.

Paul studied business administration at Ferris State University in Big Rapids and Wayne State University, and

See **Director**, page 3



Dave Paul, former director of the Romulus Department of Public Works, retired Friday after more than 37 years with the city. Co-workers surprised him with a retirement party at the department Friday.

Photo by Pam Fleming

Comments on wells will be accepted until May 16

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended to May 16 the period that citizens can comment on a proposal to exempt Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) from federal restrictions on the disposal of hazardous waste for two commercial injection wells in Romulus.

Debbie Romak, a Romulus City Council member, said the EPA extended the response period because several citizens complained that information about the wells was not available at local libraries. The initial response period ended Jan. 22.

The EPA released the decision to extend the response period Jan. 24 after receiving a letter

from U.S. Representative John Dingell (D-Dearborn).

Dingell's sharply worded letter followed his phone call to Thomas Skinner, director of the EPA, Region 5, about the way in which the public hearing on the proposed exemption was handled on Jan. 8.

"I think we can both agree that the citizens who will be most affected by the proposed deep injection wells have a right to be heard and to know that their concerns are being taken seriously by the very agency entrusted to ensure their safety and well-being. Unfortunately, the citizens who attended this hearing do not believe this to be the case," Dingell said.

Dingell said several people at the hearing were cut short before finishing their comments. He said the EPA arbitrarily enforced a three-minute limit for comments. He also said there was insufficient public notice for the hearing, since it was not sent to two major newspapers in the area.

Dingell said libraries that were supposed to have a sheet with facts about the proposal were unaware of the public notice.

"I believe you would agree this is most troubling," Dingell said in his letter to Skinner.

Several citizens who attended the hearing, he said, were offended that one EPA staff member

kept dozing off during the hearing.

"This behavior certainly does not give me or my constituents the impression that the EPA is interested in what they have to say about a hazardous waste deep injection well which will be located right in their backyards," Dingell said.

He also requested that a new hearing be scheduled during a period that he could attend, suggesting a date sometime during the week of April 22-28.

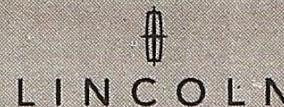
Dingell also released a Jan. 28 letter from Skinner, in which Skinner acknowledged and apologized for errors that occurred at the Jan. 8 public hearing and extended the comment period to

May 16.

An EPA fact sheet distributed at the Jan. 8 hearing said, among other things, that EDS tested the wells, examined the rocks, liquid and forces underground; and obtained information about other wells in the area.

The disposal company demonstrated that wastes should be confined three-quarters of a mile underground for at least 10,000 years.

Public comments should be postmarked by May 16 and mailed to Sally K. Swanson, Underground Injection Control Branch, U.S. EPA, (WU-16J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590, or e-mailed to swanson.sally@epa.gov.



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New billboards improve image of downtown area

Pam Fleming
Staff writer

The signs of change and a new spirit of community are visible nearly everywhere, and the City of Romulus is no exception.

Motorists leaving the downtown area will no longer view two large billboards advertising the Landing Strip Lounge—but rather messages recognizing the work of Romulus police and fire departments and thanking visitors for coming to the city.

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert and Landing Strip Owner Tom Nappo are responsible for the change in signage—one that many welcome in the city.

One sign now bears the message, "Thanks for visiting downtown Romulus," while another planned for the future will recognize Romulus fire and police officers.

"In keeping with the image of cleaning up our downtown area, I called the Landing Strip owner,

Tom Nappo, and asked him if there was any way I could talk him into taking down the signs promoting his club," Lambert said.

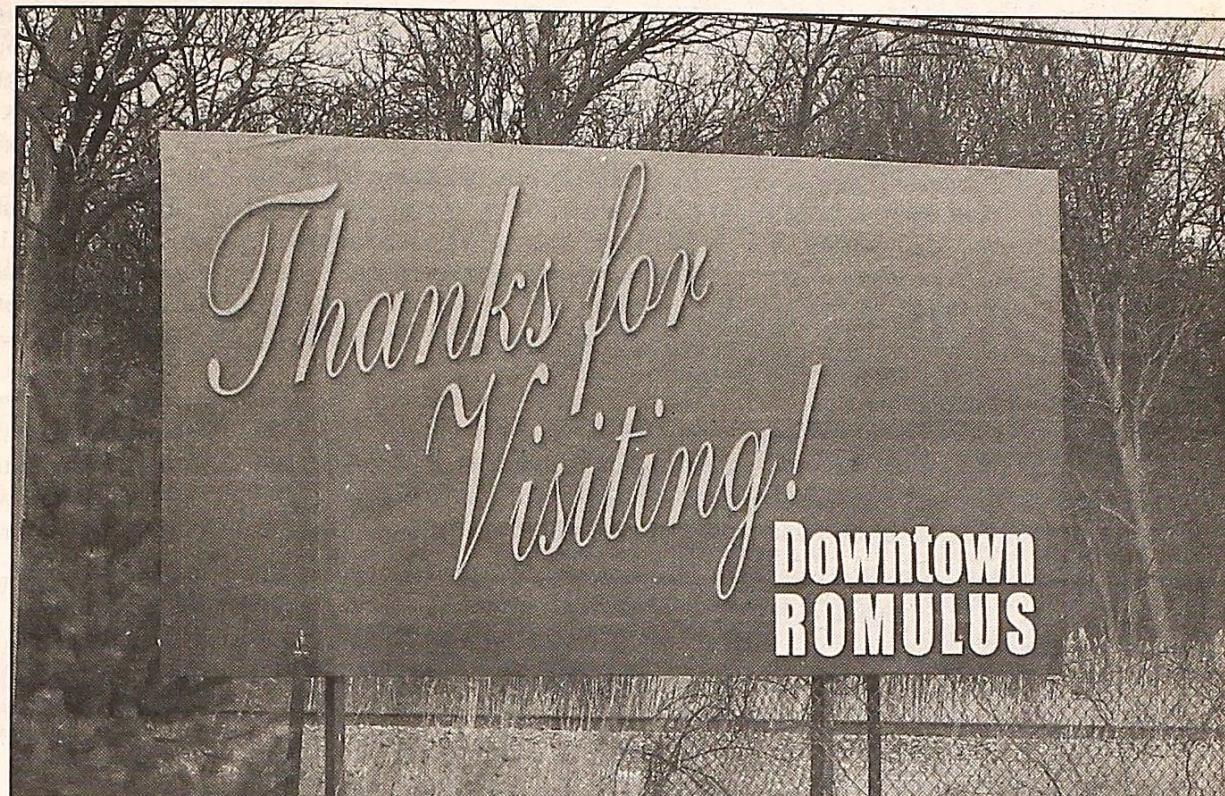
"Actually he was really nice about it, said he would take them down and donate the space to the city for community service ads," Lambert said.

Michael Sylvester, general manager of the Landing Strip, said Nappo has rented the billboard space for years and was glad to donate it to the city.

"He thought it would be better for the image of the city to be able to promote the community with these billboards," Sylvester said.

"Romulus is a good town. He wants people to have a good image of the city and not just promote the Landing Strip," Sylvester said.

Lambert said the city plans to change the billboards occasionally to feature other community service messages.



Drivers rounding the curve on Goddard Road just outside downtown Romulus now see this sign promoting the city. Following a request from Mayor Alan Lambert, Tom Nappo, the owner of the Landing Strip Lounge, took down signs promoting his club and donated the billboards for community service messages. Photo by Pam Fleming

Director - City honors longtime staffer

FROM PAGE 1

moved to Romulus in 1963. As a dismantler of switchboards and phone booths for Western Electric, part of the former Bell Telephone, in Plymouth for nine years, he tossed a lot of wood and plastic.

"I wish I had the money I threw away in telephone equipment," he said.

Paul started with the city when it was Romulus Township.

"We only had to take care of the water and sewer lines then," he recalled. When

Romulus became a city in 1970, the DPW became responsible for roads, too.

Today, the DPW has 65 employees. The department is responsible for the water system, sanitary and storm sewers, more than 100 miles of city roads, city parks, building maintenance and cemeteries.

Paul was a water department foreman for a while, then as assistant director under the late Bill Poritula.

"He left, and the late Mayor Hyle Carmichael, the first mayor of Romulus, made me interim director," he said.

Terry Trout, the second mayor, made him director in the early 1970s.

Paul left the DPW for 12 years during Mayor Bev McAnally's administration when he became director of building and administrator of planning and zoning for Romulus. "When (former mayor) Bill Oakley came in, I went back as director," Paul said.

So, how did he maintain his employment under seven city administrations?

"I didn't get involved in the politics," Paul said.

Marathon station robbed; no suspects apprehended

a.m., but found no suspects on the premises," said Romulus Police Lt. John Leacher.

Leacher noted that even though police were on the scene only five minutes after receiving the call that the time varies from when an alarm goes off and police are notified.

"Depending on the alarm company and how many calls the firm is receiving, we may not be notified immediately," Leacher said.

"There's a certain delay."

Track - Jobs, money promised

FROM PAGE 1

and simulcast facility.

The track would provide jobs for 300 to 400 people, according to McAlpine.

The simulcast facility could be used for conventions or trade shows.

Two racing surfaces would be provided—two for thoroughbred racing and one for harness racing.

About 1,200 to 1,300 horses could be housed on site as well as additional stalls for harness racing and grooms' quarters—those who take care of the horses for the trainers.

A walking ring and saddling area would also be provided, as well as a theater-in-the-round and concessions area.

There were a number of factors that led to Romulus hosting the project, according to McAlpine.

"It's an attractive location. There's existing infrastructure. We believe the project is compatible with current zoning," he said. "We think it's right for a growth-oriented city and it's

adjacent to the international airport."

McAlpine noted that MEC, as part of the corporate constitution, donates 2 percent of all profits back into the communities where the racetracks are located.

"We respond to the community. We try to get to know the community where we work," McAlpine said.

McAlpine defended racetrack betting over such activities as playing the lottery, which he called "a taxation of the poor."

"What we're talking about is a business which is a highly intellectual activity. You actually can make a difference in placing your wager. It's not like a lottery. It's not like a one-armed bandit. It's about an intellectual exercise of knowing the horses, handicapping the horses and figuring out the likely outcome of the race," he said.

"There isn't a day in the year that racing doesn't occur at an MEC facility," McAlpine said. The firm also offers 15 hours of live racing a day on Horseracing TV.

"This investment will involve a lot of trades and work from con-



Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) is one of the leading simulcast suppliers of live racing signals to inter-track, off-track and account wagering markets throughout the world. The firm distributes its live racing signals to the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. Photo courtesy MEC

tractors in the area," he added.

Council member Leroy Burcroff asked McAlpine about rumors of a proposed racetrack coming to Van Buren Township.

"The developer is not even somebody who's in the racetrack business. It's somebody who has decided for whatever reason they'd like to get into the racetrack business," he said. "They don't have the track record that we do."

McAlpine noted that the proposed track would not offer simulcast races.

"As a single, standalone race-

track operator, if you're not part of a network, it's very hard to live up to the type of commitment we're making in terms of the growth it brings the area," he said.

McAlpine said MEC owns 15 racetracks across the country and is the largest operator of racetracks in North America. Horse racing is a \$1.2 billion-a-year industry providing \$23.5 million in state tax revenue, according to McAlpine.

Developments surrounding MEC racetracks across the nation include housing develop-

ments, office buildings, high-end shopping malls, hospitals, city halls and police stations, parks, banks, tennis clubs, golf courses and arboretums.

McAlpine also addressed concerns about the odor that might occur with 1,200 horses.

"There is very little odor. People wouldn't build million-dollar homes next to a racetrack if there was an odor problem," he said.

Noise would also not pose a problem, he said. "Horses train in the morning, and they make very little noise."

Newburgh Bridge replacement plans discussed in Wayne

Scott Spielman
Editor

City of Wayne officials could help avoid a traffic bottleneck as they plan the replacement of the Newburgh Bridge.

The bridge is located on Newburgh Road south of Glenwood, and it spans a portion of the Rouge River. Wayne City Engineer Ramzi El-Gharib told city council members last week that replacing it was one of the goals he would like the engineering department to pursue this year.

The replacement is necessary because the bridge is old and falling apart, he said. Last spring, when consultants from Ayres Lewis Norris and May, Inc. went on their

biannual inspection of the bridges in the city, they noticed a large, longitudinal crack in the underside of the bridge, El-Gharib said. The crack was larger when they rechecked it in the fall, he added.

In an effort to minimize damage to it, city workers installed signs lowering the weight limit to 5 tons, he told council members.

"It really needs to be replaced," he said. He's applied for funds from the federal Critical Bridge Program to pay for the improvements.

Right now, Newburgh is a two-lane road until it reaches Palmer Road. El-Gharib said, though, that Westland officials are hoping to widen that portion of Newburgh to five lanes down to

Glenwood. Because of that, engineers would have the option to design the new bridge for the current width or to design it to accommodate a wider roadway.

"It makes sense to design it four or five lanes now," El-Gharib told the council.

Tom Wilson, public services director for the City of Westland, said the city has applied for federal funding to help pay for the proposed improvements to Newburgh Road.

"We're hoping it'll go into construction during the 2004 fiscal year," he said. "We've been working on that site since Newburgh Road was widened further north."

That project, which also included the railroad underpass between Palmer and

Cherry Hill roads, was completed within the last four years, he said.

He said the city would know within six months whether they've received funding for the project. He was optimistic, but cautioned that the federal government probably wouldn't be distributing as much road funding for the foreseeable future. Typically, the state sets aside a specific amount and allocate it according to a list of proposed projects. When funds are depleted, those non-funded projects go closer to the top of the list for the next funding cycle.

"We'll see where we're put on the list," he said. "We could use the help, just like everyone else."

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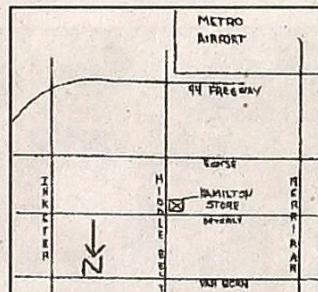
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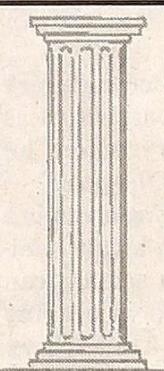
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Commissioner proposes changes to county charter

Wayne County voters will soon have an opportunity to evaluate and change the way Wayne County government operates at the most basic level.

Wayne County Commissioner John Sullivan (D-Wayne) established a committee last month to look at possible changes in the 20-year old Wayne County Charter. Sullivan will chair the committee, which also counts Kay Beard, the only current commissioner who served when the charter was first adopted, as a member.

"This is something that I suggested to Chairperson Jewel Ware when we were just getting started," Sullivan said.

The Wayne County Charter defines the basic structure of Wayne County government. Adopted by the citizens of Wayne County in 1981, it explains how each branch of government operates and details the powers of the county commission, county executive and other branches of government, Sullivan said. He said the charter review process is a good way for residents to educate themselves about the document and the government, in general.

He said expects the document to be largely unchanged.

"A lot of people have asked me about

the power the commission has over the county executive's office," he said. "That's one of the things we'll take a look at."

The charter review process is a lengthy one. Even if it gets under way immediately, it would still be August or November of 2004 before voters would decide on any changes, Sullivan said. He expects to start scheduling meetings this year for the committee to review each section of the charter and seek input from the public on any recommended changes or revised language. The full document, including any changes, would go before the board of commissioners next winter to be reviewed and approved. If that happens, he would then try to have the changes put to a vote in 2004. If changes are made and approved, they would go into effect in January of 2005, he said.

Sullivan said, however, that he hasn't had an opportunity to schedule any meetings yet.

"I'm planning to have several meetings throughout the year," he said. "It's good opportunity for the public to have their say."

He hopes to start scheduling meetings soon, but right now the commission mem-

bers are dealing with reorganization efforts due to the recent election of a new county executive.

They're also looking at making cuts to the county budget to streamline operations and cut costs, which may mean lay-

ing off some county workers.

Reduced state-shared revenues and interest income affected the county just as they affect cities and townships throughout the state of Michigan and made some cuts necessary, he said.

CITY OF INKSTER INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Inkster will receive sealed bids at the OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan until 11:00A.M. Monday, February 17, 2003 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read for:

TURNOUT GEAR

Specifications and bid forms are available after 3:00 p.m., Thursday, February 6, 2003 in the Purchasing Department, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141. Information regarding specifications can be directed to Kimberly Turner, City Clerk (313) 563-9767, Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

THE CITY OF INKSTER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO AWARD SPLIT BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY IRREGULARITIES AND ACCEPT ANY BID IT MAY DEEM TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY.

Kimberly Turner City Clerk 2121 Inkster Road Inkster, Michigan 48141

Publish: February 6, 2003

Senior drug plan proposed

State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) may have changed seats in the Michigan Legislature, but he brought some of his old goals with him.

One of them, to lower the cost of prescription drugs for senior citizens, would in some measure be achieved with a bill he introduced last week.

"Prescription drug costs appear to be excessively high and are unaffordable for many of our seniors," he said. "This will alleviate some of the burden our seniors continually face when purchasing their prescriptions."

The bill also calls for a system to be established to distribute products and services to seniors who qualify for the program. States would provide the products at cost, plus any administration costs of the program which would not exceed 3 percent of the cost of the medication.

"We're not reinventing the wheel, here," he said. "There are several regional consortiums that exist already."

The legislation also stipulates guidelines for qualifying seniors, he said. They must be 50 years old or older and have an income at or below the federal poverty line.

Rising costs of prescription drugs have long been a concern for senior citizens, many of whom are on fixed incomes. Elected officials have taken different approaches to tackling the problem and helping out their older constituents. In Westland, Mayor Sandra Cicirelli initiated a program where senior citizens travel to Canada via bus where they work with physicians to purchase medication that is cheaper on the other side of the border.



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Westland, MI 48185
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(Inside Farmer Jack)

New stores open at airport

Looking for a leather jacket to wear riding your hog? Or how about a brand new issue of *Forbe's* magazine which describes how to save for that new motorcycle?

Travelers can now get both at two new stores that just opened at Detroit Metro Airport McNamara Terminal/Northwest WorldGateway—the Motown Harley-Davidson Store and CNBC News Detroit.

"With these new additions, and more shops and restaurants to come, I'm confident our airport's concession program will rank among the world's best," said Lester W. Robinson, CEO of the Wayne County Airport Authority.

The new Harley-Davidson shop is only the second Harley store to open at any airport. The first airport store was in Milwaukee, Wis., home of Harley-Davidson, in 1997. The Motown Harley-Davidson store at Detroit Metro Airport is located in the McNamara Terminal Concourse A, near gate A-47.

The store is operated by a partnership between Paradies-Metro Ventures, Inc., a national airport retailer, and the Motown Harley-Davidson/Buell dealership in Taylor, which is the largest Harley dealership in the Midwest.

The Metro Airport store sells a variety of Harley-Davidson products and accessories. The motorcycle company celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2003.

The CNBC News Detroit store is located next to the Harley-Davidson store. The news store sells traditional newsstand items as well as books, videos and other items. The network, a leader in global business news, and the Paradies Shops teamed in December 2001 to launch several CNBC stores in airports across the country.

In the next four months, three new restaurants will open at the McNamara Terminal. By May 2003, travelers can dine at Chili's Too, a sit-down, neighborhood-style restaurant, serving fare from the national Chili's brand, a National Coney Island and a National Coney Island Express/Slapshots Bar.

Travelers looking for a more upscale dining experience while at Metro Airport can also visit DEMA, the new open-air restaurant in the atrium of the new Westin Hotel at the McNamara Terminal.

Detroit Metro Airport recently tied for second place among large U.S. airports in a customer satisfaction survey conducted by J.D. Power and Associates.

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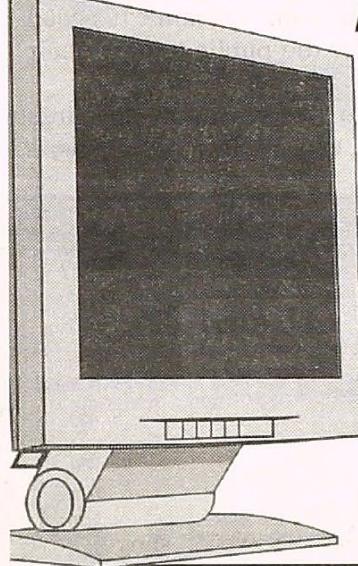
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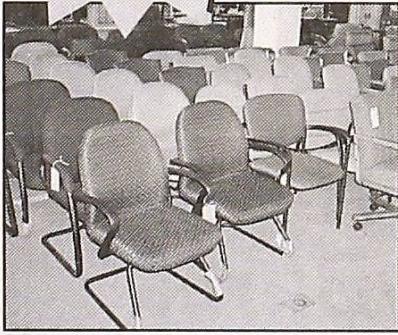
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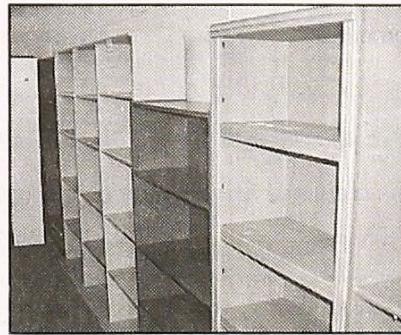
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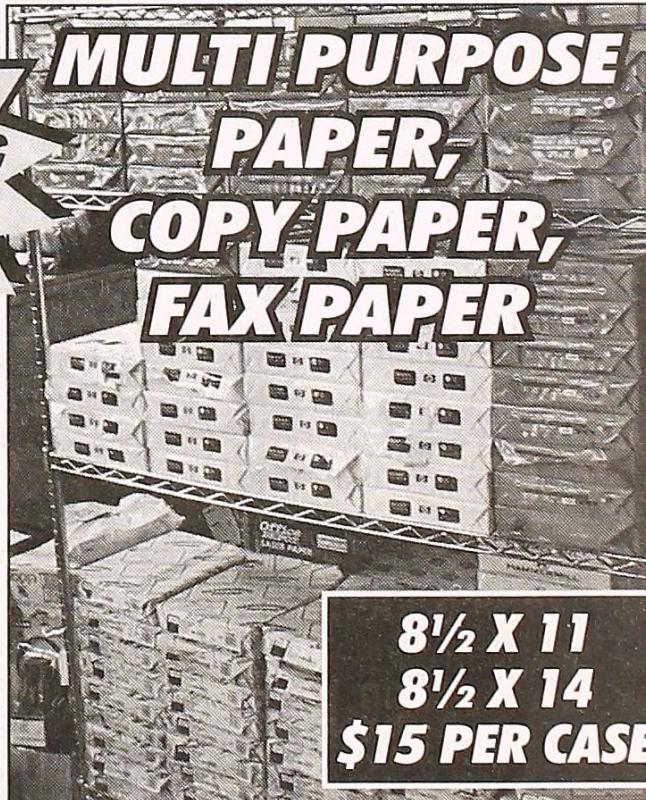
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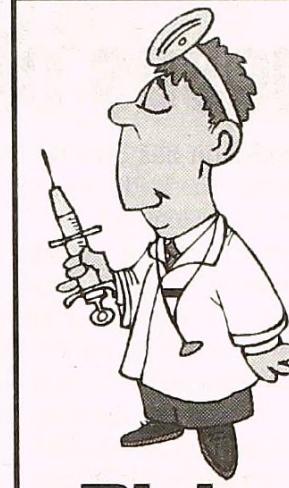
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OPINION

A 'show' of support

During the past several weeks, many residents and theater patrons have petitioned the Wayne City Council members in an attempt to save the Wayne Community Theater.

They talked of the necessity to nurture the soul and feed the heart; they applauded the impact it has made in the lives of budding thespians, young and old alike, as they asked the city not to temporarily cut off funding for this valuable community feature.

So far, the bulk of this support has taken place at city council meetings but residents and supporters of the arts have a chance this weekend to show the city how vital they think the theater is to the social climate of the city.

It's simple. They can buy tickets to "Headlines," the upcoming production of the Wayne Youth Theater group. The group is presenting the play this weekend, with shows on Friday night, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are only \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors and every one sold will show city leaders how valuable their residents think the theater is.

Theater groups are traditionally easy fodder for elected leaders when times are tight and budget cuts are necessary. Part of that is because of the nature of the services they provide and the fact that it's easier to host a fundraiser for a theater group than for a burst water main. Everyone needs to drink, but not everyone needs to go to the theater.

It would be refreshing if the community came out in force to say that the theater was, in some ways, every bit as important as the water that comes through the pipes of every home.

The theater group may face an uphill battle in the quest for continued funding from the city, but it will make the climb that much easier if, every time the curtain rises this weekend, they look to the audience and find a theater packed with supporters.

Voters should reinvest funds in district schools

Residents in the Wayne-Westland School district may not have voting on the mind in the middle of February, but they have an important choice to make Feb. 18.

That's when the school district will host a special election to ask voters to approve a request by the district to levy 1 mill in the form of a sinking fund to pay for maintenance projects and ongoing technological upgrades in the district.

If approved, the levy would generate about \$2.3 million for the district in the first year and up to \$3.2 million when the millage expires in 2012.

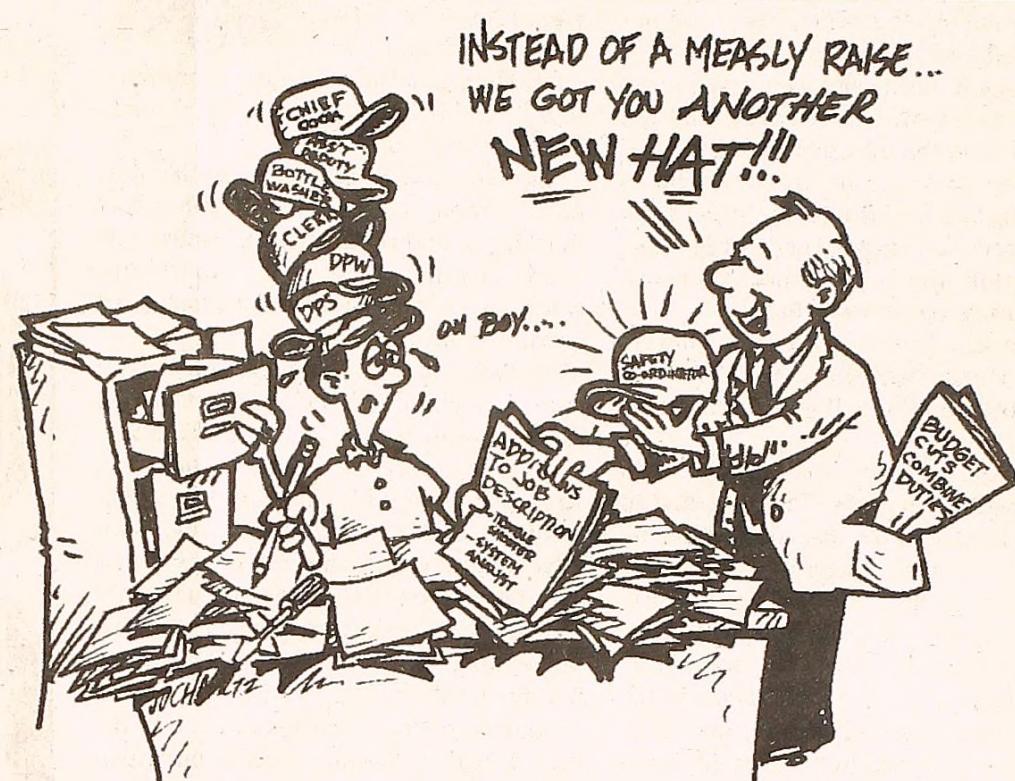
Sinking funds are a revenue source that school districts can tap to pay for large-ticket maintenance items like repairing or replacing school roofs or heating and cooling systems, building renovations and facade upgrades. By definition, they require stringent oversight; the funds are audited annually and cannot be used for employee salaries.

It makes sense for the district to make such a pitch this year. The debt millage for the district is set to go down, so if voters approve the sinking fund question, they'll still be paying less than they did in 1998, when they approved the last major bond issue.

That's part of the reason we think voters should vote yes on the request when they go to the polls next Tuesday.

School officials learned from their last successful millage that information was the key to gaining the confidence – and endorsement – of voters. They followed that example as they promoted the upcoming sinking fund vote at public meetings, in discussions with parent-teacher organizations and through the local cable channels.

See Schools, page 8



The 'Old Bailey' indeed

It was the right time for the Winterfest event to take over the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland.

The parks and recreation department, after all, is in the midst of renewing their five-year master plan and the Bailey Center should figure prominently in that. Or the renovations should.

In fact, as I walked around the center, trying to keep up with my constantly moving son, one thought kept resurfacing: This is a place in dire need of an upgrade.

In the gym, yellow lights glared down on three inflatable jungle gyms where shoeless children cavorted. Nearby children tried their hand at the Army challenge on frayed gym mats and

were rewarded with ice scrapers.

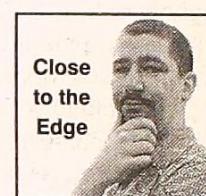
New lighting would eliminate the yellow glare and a new filtration system or heating and cooling system would help alleviate the musty smell of long use that pervaded the gym.

Upstairs children took part in arts and crafts, face painting, watched a magician or learned about animals in the rain forest. Some of the younger kids, like 2-year-old Henry, craned their necks to reach plates filled with hot dogs or pizza – the tables were too high or the seats were too low.

Westland is one of the largest cities in the state and residents deserve one of the most up-to-date facilities around, particularly because the city is a little light when it comes to dedicated park

land.

Don't get me wrong. I think the idea for the event is a good one; there're not enough family style events for people to take advantage during the winter as it is. Some people told me the event had been scaled back from previous years, so perhaps it was a victim of the budget crunch that municipalities across the state are facing. The parks and recreation department probably did the best they could with their resources. They just deserve a better backdrop for their events. Putting renovations or expansion of the Bailey Center in the recreation master plan would be a good step to bringing that to fruition.



Solace for the price of a song

An old man walked slowly to the front of the room. Nearly 100 people watched quietly as he settled his creaky bones onto a chair facing them. Within seconds, the room was alive as the old man led a rousing rendition of *Mountain Dew*.

People belted out harmonies and laughed at the lyrics, like a group of friends who gathered in someone's living room. A banjo and two guitars followed the old man's lead. When the song ended, another audience member shouted out the name of a song and became the song leader. The banjo player, Mark Dvorak, was the leader of the impromptu hootenanny.

It was actually a workshop called "The Spontaneous Folk Ensemble," that was part of the Mid-Winter Singing Festival in East Lansing.

The festival was produced by folk singer Sally Potter and a small group of people affiliated with the Ten Pound Fiddle Coffeehouse. It was the first of what the group hopes will be many such festivals. Its mission

was simple – to get people together to sing.

People, at some level of their consciousness, want to be involved in group activities.

That is why a singing festival, like the one last weekend where people just get together to sing, seems to be a success waiting to happen.

Even as we isolate ourselves, Americans still want to be part of a community. We want to be in a place where people know each other. A place where people care. A place where people of different races, creeds, political views, and social strata harmonize to make a better world. The world is, after all, like a choir. Different people find their place in the choir, take different parts and, hopefully, sing along in the same direction.

The festival happened on a day when our government continued preparations for war and the nation mourned the victims of another space shuttle tragedy. It was fitting, it seemed to me, that people gathered to sing songs of peace and hope, mourn-

ing the tragedy while celebrating Life. It brought to mind the words of a Robert Lowry hymn: *Through all the tumult and the strife/ I hear that music ringing/ It sounds an echo in my soul/ How can I keep from singing?*

On that day, hundreds of people came together; as a community, just to sing. Like it was in the days before television, computer games and cyber villages pulled us away from our front porch and living room sing-alongs.

We still sing, of course, but in places like our cars as we listen to an oldies radio station. It is not the same.

It was good to be part of the Mid-Winter Singing Festival. I hope it enjoys a long life. And, as society tries to revive our fading community identities through artificial means, like New Urbanist neighborhoods, I hope we do not forget that nothing brings people together better than a simple song that everyone can sing.



JOURNAL

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Attention Kmart shoppers

I was sitting at my desk, recovering from an exceptionally long night putting *The Journal* together when I received her phone call.

Actually, it was a call I'd expected to get a lot sooner. It was no surprise that the incensed voice on the other end of the line belonged to a Kmart worker who is preparing for the closing of the super store on the corner of Haggerty and Ford roads.

Naturally, the caller expressed shock that the store was indeed closing.

"It's a slap in the face to the workers and the customers," she said. "This store was always successful. It just doesn't make sense."

The Canton Super Kmart opened with much fanfare in 1998. Fast forward to January 2002 after the discounter filed the biggest retail bankruptcy filing in history, and the anger Kmart rank-and-file workers are experiencing is understandable. Former CEO Chuck Conaway apparently signed off on excessive six- and seven-figure retention loans for several top executives without regard to the overall financial health of the company. Then, after making several detrimental decisions that contributed to the bankruptcy filing last year, was paid millions per his contract, to walk out the door.

What followed was the March 2002 closing of 283 stores, 18 of which were in Michigan. About 25,000 people who worked in the stores, and later, 700 people at the company Troy headquarters, lost their jobs. Last week, the retailer announced that 326 stores would close, including the Canton Township store, and about 35,000 more jobs would be eliminated as a result.

Yes, that's a bloodbath, especially when you factor in that Kmart is headquartered in Michigan. But it's nothing compared to what will happen if Kmart doesn't emerge from Chapter 11.

For the many locals who boast that they haven't been in a Kmart in 10 years, and that they couldn't care less if Kmart succeeds or fails, guess what: You'll care when it's too late, and the jobs lost won't be limited to Kmart.

In fact, Kmart conducts business with several companies that provide services to the company. If those business relationships disappeared, many jobs would too. Workers employed by the companies that provide IT services, clean offices, print advertisements, create advertising and transport goods between locations would face layoffs. Indeed, the prospect of Kmart not emerging from Chapter 11 should frighten us all.

I know. You're shaking your head thinking, "But they haven't earned our business." Well, the retailer's past practices have not exactly greased the wheels of consumer loyalty. But when I stepped into a Kmart for the first time after the bankruptcy filing, I found high-quality merchandise and ended up making a few purchases. I've since spoken with many people who have made a concerted effort to shop at Kmart, if for no other reason than to save thousands of jobs inhabited by people who did everything right, each day, who are now being wronged. We all need to at least think about doing exactly that.

Yes, it's hard to forget past wrongs. But we can't really afford not to.



by Molly Tippen

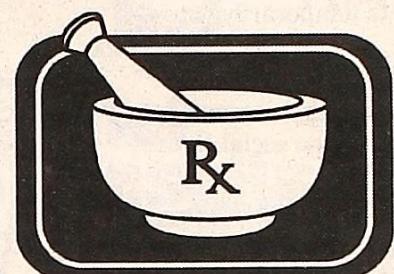
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Through February

LETTERS

Automotive company criticized

To the editor:

I am still trying to figure out how an automotive company with any ounce of integrity could cut the wages of their third-party contract workers by 7% in early 2002, then turn around and divvy up the company's "profit sharing" checks to the regular employees, without reinstating the pay of the other workers. Do none of the decision-making executives there have a conscience?

For a company who saw their business

ventures plummeting with the recession, they can now see their reputation as a reputable company plummeting as well.

Karyl J. Glasser

Send us your letters

The Journal welcomes all signed letters to the editor and will consider all submissions for publication.

Mail letters to: The Journal, P.O. Box 701422, Plymouth, Mich. 48170. Letters may be edited for content or space and must include a phone number for verification of identity.

Schools - Yes vote is urged on Feb. 8

FROM PAGE 7

In some ways, talking with parent teacher groups is a bit like preaching to the choir. Virtually anybody involved with the school district knows that funds can be tight and large maintenance items that are essential to promote the safety and comfort of the students - and therefore an effective learning environment - threaten to take away from vital educational programs. That's because school districts receive funds for instruction, but generally not for building upkeep.

A positive vote on Feb. 18 will tell district officials two things: it will reaffirm the confidence voters have in the direction that the district is heading, and it will be another stamp of approval for the way the district has spent the funds from the last millage. It is, in fact, a chance for voters to reinvest in their initial school investment.

But while this is a good year to ask for an additional mill, the precise time of the year may raise a few eyebrows. Schools

are traditionally criticized for scheduling important tax questions during the winter months, when many senior citizens - traditionally the segment of the community that is reluctant to approve school taxes - are spending time in warmer climates.

Some critics point out that it's a way for school districts to stack the deck in their favor.

We don't think that's the case here, though. More likely, it just shows a desire on the part of the district to capitalize on a sluggish economy when projects bid out tend to be less expensive. The timing is also such that, if voters approve the millage, work can begin on some schools this summer, rather than being pushed off until next year.

February may not be a time when residents think about heading out to the polls, but it's still a time when they should consider the future of our schools and remember the investment they made four years ago. They should vote yes for the Wayne-Westland sinking fund.



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Romulus police offering crime seminars for senior citizens

Senior citizens can take advantage of a special seminar being offered next week in Romulus so that criminals can't take advantage of them.

The Romulus Recreation Department and Senior Center will offer a free program, "Exploitation Against Senior Citizens: Don't Become a Victim,"

at 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at Romulus City Hall, 11111 S. Wayne Road.

The class is part of the Romulus Police Department "Fight Crime with Knowledge" series designed to help educate senior citizens about crimes that might affect them.

The seminar will last about two hours, according to Ofc.

Damian Hull of the Romulus Police Department, who will present the program.

"The presentation will include information about a recent law that makes exploitation of vulnerable adults, which includes the elderly, a felony," Hull said. "We'll discuss the law and teach elderly people warn-

ing signs and ways to prevent becoming a victim of crime."

Exploitation of senior citizens is the top crime in this age group, Hull said, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) statistics.

During the past five years, national crime rates have been on a steady decline. During the

same time period, however, crimes involving senior citizens have shown a rapid increase.

Informational literature and light refreshments will be available at the seminar, according to Hull.

Preregister by calling the Romulus Senior Center at (734) 942-6852.

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF WAYNE CITY OF ROMULUS

ORDINANCE NO. Appendix A, Zoning Amendment 1. 183

PC 2002 - 035

TEXT AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE

(Unspecified Use Determination)

An Ordinance to amend the City of Romulus Zoning Ordinance, as previously amended, for the purpose of providing a procedure and standards for resolving legitimate differences of opinion with respect to whether one or more uses are intended to be permitted in a particular zoning district or other use authorization contained in this Ordinance; and/or whether one or more uses which are not expressly authorized are permitted in any zoning district or at any location within the City.

THE CITY OF ROMULUS ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section I of Ordinance

Article IV, Section 4.21 of the Zoning Ordinance shall be amended by reformatting the existing provisions and adding a new provisions, so as to read as follows upon the effective date of this amendment:

ARTICLE IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 4.21 Permitted uses.

A. No building shall be erected, converted, enlarged, reconstructed or structurally altered, nor shall any building or land be used, designed or arranged for any purpose other than is permitted in the district in which the building or land is located, except as otherwise provided herein.

B. It is recognized that, in the administration of this Ordinance, there may be situations in which there is a legitimate difference of opinion with regard to the following questions (which shall be referred to in this Section as "a Use Authorization Question"): (i) whether one or more uses are intended to be permitted in a particular zoning district or other use authorization contained in this Ordinance; and/or (ii) whether one or more uses which are not expressly authorized are permitted in any zoning district or at any location within the City. A Use Authorization Question may be identified by any body or official of the City charged with the administration of this Ordinance. In the event a Use Authorization Question is identified, the following procedure shall be applicable for the purpose of achieving a resolution of the Use Authorization Question:

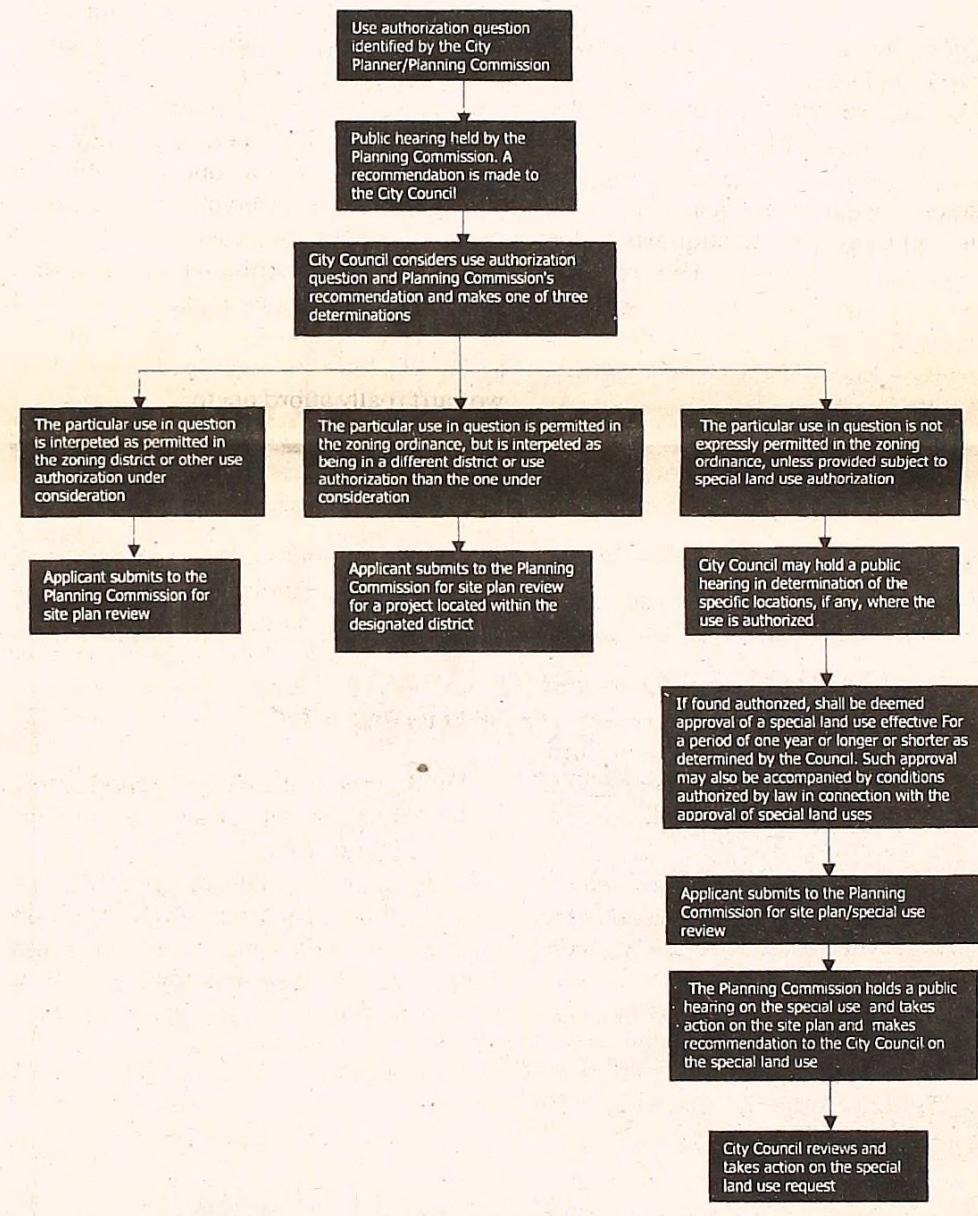
1. The Use Authorization Question shall first be presented to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission shall conduct a public hearing following notice given as provided in Section 26.04A. Following the public hearing and deliberation by the Planning Commission, a recommendation on the resolution of the Use Authorization Question shall be made by the Planning Commission and forwarded to the City Council.
2. Upon receipt of the Planning Commission's recommendation, the City Council shall consider the Use Authorization Question, and shall, in the exercise of its discretion, thereafter render a determination. The determination of the City Council may be that:

- a. The particular use in question is interpreted as being permitted in the zoning district or other use authorization under consideration; or,
- b. The particular use in question is permitted in the zoning ordinance, but is interpreted as being permitted in one or more different districts or use authorizations than the one under consideration; or,
- c. The particular use in question is not expressly permitted in the zoning ordinance, unless and until it is approved as a special land use in accordance with the following subparagraph 3.

3. If a determination is rendered that a use is not expressly permitted in the zoning ordinance, the City Council may elect to conduct a public hearing following notice given as provided in Section 26.04A, and, as part of its determination under this Section, specify the location(s) in the City, if any, where the use under consideration is authorized. If the City Council determines that the use under consideration is authorized in a particular district, such determination shall be deemed to be an approval of a special land use, effective for a period of one year, or for a longer or shorter period if fixed by the City Council, and such approval may be accompanied by conditions authorized by law in connection with the approval of special land uses. Final approval of such a special land use so granted shall require the submission, review and approval of a site plan, in the manner provided in Article XXVI of this Ordinance.

4. In the consideration of a Use Authorization Question, the Planning Commission and City Council shall be guided by the following standards:
 - Consistency of the use with the Master Plan;
 - Relationship of the use with the uses expressly authorized in the zoning district or other use authorization being considered;
 - Relationship and compatibility of the use to land uses in the area that may be impacted;
 - Relationship and compatibility to public services and facilities that may be impacted; and,
 - The spirit, purpose and intent of the ordinance as a whole.

Figure 4.21 Use Determination Flow Chart



Section 2 of Ordinance

Except as expressly set forth above, the Zoning Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3 of Ordinance

This ordinance shall be effective on the date provided by law and City Charter following publication.

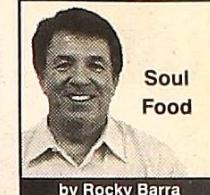
CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan, at a meeting of the Council duly called held on the 9th day of December, 2002, and ratified at a meeting of the City Council duly called held on the 13th day of January, 2003.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
Alan R. Lambert, Mayor
City of Romulus, Michigan

Introduced: 11-25-02
Adopted: 12-09-02
Ratified: 01-13-03
Effective: 02-06-03
Published: 02-06-03

Only in America can you find...



It's interesting to see how our quest for ingenuity and convenience has created the following. Chalk up another one for political correctness.

- Only in America...can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

- Only in America...are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink

- Only in America...do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can get cigarettes at the front.

- Only in America...do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet Coke.

- Only in America...do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens

to the counters.

- Only in America...do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

- Only in America...do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

- Only in America...do we buy hot

dogs in packages of 10 and buns in packages of eight.

- Only in America...do we use the word politics to describe the process so well: Poli in Latin meaning many and ties meaning bloodsucking creatures.

- Only in America...do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

OBITUARIES

Jan. 28.

CALLAHAN, William E. Among her survivors are a niece, Beverly Blankertz and a nephew, Philip Blankertz.

Funeral services were at the Uht Funeral Home in Westland with the Rev. David Kipfmiller officiating.

Interment was at Glenwood Cemetery in Wayne.

RINCHER, Zechariah Mario

Zechariah Mario Rincher, 1, of Taylor died Dec. 17.

Among his survivors are his parents David and Rita Rincher; two siblings; grandparents, great-grandparents; aunts; uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services were at Greater Grace Temple in Taylor with Elder Gary Harper officiating.

Interment was at United Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster.

CLARK, Florida

Florida Clark, 60, of Inkster, died Dec. 22.

A former Wayne resident, Mrs. Clark is survived by her sisters, Pearl, Beverly, Madelyn and Pat, and brothers, Robert and Melvin.

Services were at the Penn Funeral

Home with Brother Woodson officiating.

JONES, James Jr.

James Jones, Jr., 74, of Inkster, died Jan. 3.

Among his survivors are his daughter, Earline Jones-Taylor, and his grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Beulah Baptist Church in Westland with the Rev. Kenneth Pierce officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home.

ROBINSON, Elnora

Elnora Robinson, 64, of Inkster, died Jan. 3.

Mrs. Robinson retired from the Ford Motor Co. Rawsonville Plant.

Funeral services were at Amity Baptist Church where Mrs. Robinson was a faithful member, with the Rev. Anthony Eddy officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home.

DOUGLAS, Dewey G.

Dewey G. Douglass, 57, of Detroit, died Jan. 5.

Among his survivors are his wife, Virginia; daughters, Annisa, Erica and Kimberly; a son, Derius, and seven grandchildren.

Services were at the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster.

BARROW, Clarice

Clarice Barrow, 69, of Inkster, died Jan. 21.

Mrs. Barrow served as supervisor of the State of Michigan Social Services for 31 years.

Among her survivors are his husband of 31 years, DeLeon; four children, Melanee, Shawn, Todd and Rodney; a sister; six brothers; eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were at Amity Baptist Church with the Rev. Anthony Eddy officiating.

Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Gardens in Canton Township.

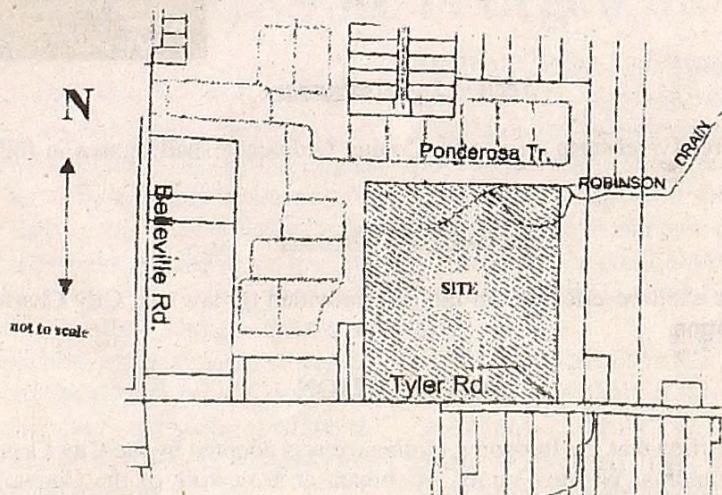
Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster.

See **Obituaries**, page 11

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday February 26, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, as amended, to amend the zoning map by rezoning parcel number V125-83-039-99-0013-000 from R-1B (Single Family Residential) to RM (Multiple Family) located on the north side of Tyler Road, west of Morton Taylor, east of Belleville Road.



Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

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MORE OBITUARIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

SCOTT, Andrea

Andrea Scott, 2 months of age, of Inkster, died Jan. 19.

Among the infant's survivors are her parents, Andre Scott and Martha Bonds; brothers, Kashawn, Andre Jr., and Malik; her grandparents; great-grandparents, and aunts and uncles.

Services were at the Penn Funeral Home with Elder Ronald Springer officiating.

Interment was at Westland Cemetery in Wayne.

SIEBEN, Glenn Anthony

Glenn Anthony Sieben, 80, of Plymouth, formerly of Belleville, died Jan. 31 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Among his survivors are his wife, Gloria T. (VanBuhler) Sieben; stepchildren, Robert (Susan) Polzin of Canton Township, Bernard (Rita) Polzin of Kentucky, Debra (Les) Koltvedt of Canton, Charles Polzin of Plymouth, Henry (Betty) Polzin of Tecumseh and Joseph Polzin of Westland; brothers, Virgil Sieben and Paul (Crystal) Sieben, both of Sauk Centre, Minn.; 13 step-grandchildren, and six step-great-grandchildren.

Services were at St. Anthony Catholic Church with Father Thomas H. Cusick as celebrant of the mass.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

WOOD, Francine Marie

Francine Marie Wood, 67, of Bonita Springs, Fla., formerly of Taylor, died Jan. 27 in Florida.

Among her survivors are her children Robin (Larry) Bigger of Walled Lake and Todd W. (Barbara) Hubbard of New Boston; her longtime companion Gerald C. Hubbard; sister Lenore (Orvil) Chism of Taylor; brother Forest (Carolyn) Latendresse of Cal.; her mother, Martha A. Latendresse of Taylor; five grandchildren; a niece, Susan (Ken) Stewart, and a nephew David (Debbie) Travis, both of Taylor.

Services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Robert J. White officiating. Interment was at Tyler Street Cemetery in Belleville.

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ABSTRACT

WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2003-03

JANUARY 28, 2003

Special Meeting of the City Council held Tuesday, January 28, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Rd. All Members Present, Dickerson (8:40). Continued discussion regarding amending of FY '02-'03 Budget. APPROVED: salary suspension for City Council & Mayor until June 30, 2003; elimination of grading project, tree Planting project, Mayors Exchange Day, Fireworks Show, Parking Deck Attendants; reduction in Beautification Comm. Budget, Planting Day, General Fund subsidy to the Library, amount spent on Summer concerts. Recessed at 9:59 p.m. Reconvened at 10:18 p.m. Discussion of FY '03-'04 Goals. Adjourned at 12:05 a.m., Wednesday, January 29, 2003.

Mary E. Carney
City Clerk

Publish: February 6, 2003

Open House & Career Expo

Wednesday, February 12th, 2003
6:30-9:00pm

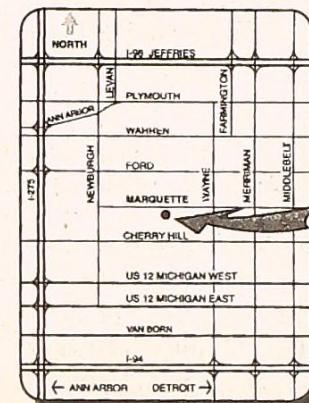
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- School Staff
- Community Residents
- Parochial & Home Schooled Students and Parents
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Wayne Memorial High School seeks distinguished alumni

Wayne Memorial High School is looking for a Distinguished Alumni to honor at the commencement ceremony this year, according to Principal Don Chastain.

"We have had many outstanding people graduate from Wayne Memorial. Many have contributed significantly to the betterment of society on a local, state, national or international

level," Chastain said.

The award has become a part of the annual commencement ceremony of Wayne Memorial High School. Each winner is awarded a gold medal.

To nominate a former Wayne Memorial High School graduate please contact Mary Hubert, secretary to the principal, at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne or call her

at 419-2200. The winner will be announced in mid May and the recipient will then be honored at commencement on June 7, 2003. Nominations are due March 7, 2003.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JANUARY 13, 2003 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48714.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: LeRoy D. Burcroff, William A. Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.

Absent: None

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor
Terrance Hermenau, Deputy Clerk
Pamela Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak by Crova to approve the agenda.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-017

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 6, 2003.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-018

4A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adopt a resolution acknowledging the retirement of David Paul, Director of Public Works thanking him for his thirty seven years of service to the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Romak to accept the Chairperson's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-019

5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Romak to schedule a Study Session on Monday, January 27, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 to discuss the Audit for Fiscal Year 2002/2003 and to reschedule the Federal Local Law Enforcement Grant Public Hearing to January 27, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-020

5B. Motion by Romak, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment 02/03-15 as follows:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDED AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
Expenditures				
101-801.00-727.000	Office Supplies	1,000	500	1,500
Fund Balance	AVAILABLE		APPROPRIATE	BALANCE
General Fund	581,669		500	581,169

To appropriate additional funds for the increase in costs for the copying and selling of the Zoning Ordinance and Master Plans for the City.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-021

5C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Romak to declare an emergency and authorize the purchase of a 1993 EMS ambulance equipped vehicle from Halt Fire in the amount of \$7,000.00 to replace Fire Unit #314 from Fire Station #1.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-022

5D. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to award Bid 02/03-17 for the Moving

of the Building Department from City Hall to the Department of Public Works Building, 12600 Wayne Road, to the lowest bidder, Stevens Van Line at a total cost of \$4,757.75.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-023

5E. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to award Bid 02/03-18 for New Furniture for the Building Department to the lowest bidder, SCP Enterprises, Inc. at a total cost of \$19,883.53.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-024

5F. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to award Bid 02/03-42 for one (1) set of six (6) Mobile Column Lifts to the lowest qualified bidder, Jack Doheny supplies, Inc. at a total cost of \$29,800.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-025

5G. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to reject Bid 02/03-44 for two (2) Digital Studio Camera Packages and to authorize the purchase of this equipment from Thalner Electronics in the amount of \$31,060.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-026

6A 1. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to authorize the attendance of any elected official at the 2003 National League of Cities Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. held March 7, 2003 through March 11, 2003.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-027

6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to authorize elected officials to attend the 2003 Michigan Municipal League Legislative Conference on March 26, 2003 in Lansing, Michigan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-028

6A3. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to approve the second reading and final adoption of Zoning Text Amendment 1.183 introduced at the meeting of November 25, 2002.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-029

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to authorize the payment of Warrant 03-01 in the grand total amount of Five Hundred and Forty Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventeen Dollars and Sixty Three Cents (\$546,517.63).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - Miller. Abstain -Romak. Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrance Hermenau, Deputy Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Terrance Hermenau, Deputy Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 13, 2003.

Terrance Hermenau, Deputy Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: February 6, 2003

Wayne Youth Theater to present 'Headlines'

Members of the Wayne Youth Theater didn't have to look far to find the inspiration for their next performance.

They found it in the world around them in the form of major news stories whose headlines or graphics caught their eyes, according to Tracy Spada, arts and entertainment supervisor for the City of Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.

In fact, it's entitled "Headlines" and it will hit Stage IV at

the State Wayne Theater this weekend.

The youth theater group is made up of students ages 13-18, according to Spada. They wrote the play as well as supplying all the actors for it. She said she gave them the assignment to scour newspapers for stories that interested them and they used those as the basis for the play.

"It's kind of provocative, but there's humor in it, too," she said. "It's kind of 'in your face.'"

It's the third original production put on by the theater group, which usually adapts previously written material. There were 15 youngsters involved in the exercise, and they met and sat down to turn the stories into script form. The names were changed in the short scenes, but audience members will recognize several hot news topics that occurred in recent history.

She said the writing process has proved a good one for her

and the members of the group.

Spada edited the stories and developed two central characters that help combine the individual scenes into a continuous storyline. One of them is a homeless youth who makes money selling newspapers and the other, the antagonist, believes there's nothing good or truthful to read in them.

Spada said the play allows the young actors to voice their opinions on a variety of issues using

events like Columbine tragedy to tackle topics like gun control.

The show opens at 8 p.m. tomorrow. There's a 2 p.m. and an 8 p.m. show on Saturday, Feb. 8 and a 2 p.m. show on Sunday. "We're really proud of this production," Spada said. "It's pretty amazing."

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. More information is available by contacting the recreation department at 734-729-7400.

Residents discuss new plan for Sumpter Township

Heather Connor
Staff Writer

Sumpter Township residents helping to plan future development in the township say they want to keep things as they are, add a few more residents and establish a larger tax base.

About 30 residents met Jan. 25 with officials at the PNA Hall to develop goals for a proposed master plan. They discussed potential goals and objectives with members of the Sumpter Board of Trustees, the Sumpter Township Planning Commission and the Master Plan Steering Committee.

Katie Davison of the Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio in Ann Arbor said about 30 residents took part in the discussion. The group reviewed goals discussed at a Dec. 5 meeting and fleshed them out, she said.

"We're going to take their ideas and their vision to make the future land use plan the best it can be," Davison said.

Davison said planners are still refining the goals, but residents said they would like to preserve the rural character of the community, preserve open space, provide affordable housing to residents and diversify the township tax base.

Davison said the residents who attended divided into five small groups and, using maps of the community, identified areas for prospective commercial and industrial use. She said residents said they want to create greenways for recreational use, as well as preserve the horse farms and open space when considering subdivision development to preserve the rural community setting.

Davison said residents examined the prospect mixed-use affordable housing called "hamlets," which could house residents and businesses such as a locally owned retail shop or a small office.

Planners are not necessarily developing a downtown, she said. But expanding commercial development along the Sumpter and Willis road corridors could create "denser housing options" for seniors and other residents.

The planners are working with the township planning commission and the master plan steering committee on a first draft of the master plan. The process will take a few months, Davison said. The planners will present the final master plan to the Sumpter Board of Trustees for final approval early this summer, she said.

Deadline looms for state student loan applications

It's crunch time for area high school seniors seeking financial aid for college next year, as the Feb. 18 deadline for applications draws closer.

The Michigan deadline is one of the earliest in the nation, according to Pamela W. Fowler, University of Michigan financial aid director. Fowler visited Romulus schools last month to encourage students and parents to prepare applications early this year due to budget constraints. About 150 students and parents attended the annual workshop.

"The federal government will have \$68 billion available in grants and loans for college students, but on a first come, first served basis," Fowler said. She urged students and parents to contact the financial aid director at their college or university of choice as soon as possible.

The time element in applying for student loans is especially important this year because many colleges and universities have less financial aid money to offer, she said.

Fowler also said time constraints make it important to fill out the electronic version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form this year.

"The electronic form will be processed

within 10 days, whereas the handwritten form sent by mail will take over a month for processing," Fowler said.

The government uses the FAFSA form to determine the amount of money a family is expected to supply for their child's college education as well as the amount of money available in grants and loans for each student.

Each student is also eligible for a Perkins Loans at 5 percent interest, Stafford Loans at 8 percent interest, and a Pell Grant, which does not have to be paid back, Fowler said.

Fowler also discussed need-based and merit-based scholarships, work/study programs—both governmental and institutional—and private loans.

She also presented figures showing that college students can usually handle up to \$20,000 in loans for their education. This would require loan payments of \$275 to \$300 per month for 10 years.

Romulus High School guidance staff members have urged parents to contact them for additional information.

Those who are interested can call John Domas at (734) 532-1025, Mae Jackson at (734) 532-1022 or Jim Orme at (734) 532-1023.

ROMULUS HOUSING COMMISSION NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Romulus Housing Commission.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about February, 25, 2003, the City of Romulus will authorize the Romulus Housing Commission to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of FY 2000 Capital Fund Program (CFP) funds under Title I of the Public Housing Act of 1937, as amended, to undertake a project known CFP 2000 for the purpose of performing minor rehabilitation, general property improvements. In addition, the funding can be used for consulting and other service fees.

The following activities are proposed under this program: Staff & Commissioner training (3,000); Security /Program(40,000); Auditing fees (1,800); A&E fees and related costs(17,120); Sidewalk & Driveway repairs (18,278); Kitchen & Hall fluorescent lighting (4,000); Basement stair enclosures (13,500); Bathtub drain gasket replacement(16,000); Exterior door Locks ((24,700); Five-year painting cycle (28,000); Carbon Monoxide detectors (12,900); Ranges & Refrigerators (6,000); Office building windows (3,000); Relocation costs (4,000); Contingency (4,000); The total CFP Grant being requested is \$196,298.00 The aforementioned activities will occur at the 101 public housing units operated by the Romulus Housing Commission.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Romulus has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) can be examined at the Romulus Housing Commission, 34200 Beverly Road, Romulus, Michigan, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to be examined or copied.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of Romulus 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174. All comments received by Feb. 14, 2003 will be considered by the City of Romulus prior to submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Romulus certifies to the Department of Housing and Urban Development that Mayor Alan Lambert in his capacity as mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Department of Housing and Urban Development acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities and under NEPA and allow the Romulus Housing Commission to use the Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Romulus certifications for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following basis: (a) the certification was not executed by the certifying officer of the City of Romulus; (b) the City of Romulus has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures. (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Grant Administration Office, Office of Public Housing, Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226. Potential objectors should contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alan Lambert, Mayor
City of Romulus

Publish: January 30, 2003

February 6, 2003

SPORTS

Northville tops Canton, Salem with balanced defense

Scott Spielman
Editor

Northville Basketball Coach Darrel Schumacher said the Mustangs probably played their best game all year last Tuesday when they matched up against the Salem Rocks.

Even so, the game wasn't decided until the last few minutes when the Mustangs eked out a 61-56 victory.

Northville led through most of the game, but Schumacher said he thinks the Rocks would have taken the lead - and the victory - if their star, Dave Hoskins, hadn't fouled out of the game with about three minutes left to play.

"He's for real," Schumacher said. "I don't think there's any way to stop him."

The Mustangs took a 15-7 lead in the first quarter, and managed to keep Hoskins off the board. Salem came right back, though, and narrowed the lead to 32-30 at halftime.

"That was one of the first times we didn't stake the other team out to a lead before we started to play," Schumacher said.

The Mustangs widened the lead to 49-41 at the end of the third quarter, but Salem wasn't

done. The Mustangs tried to increase the pressure on Hoskins, but when he wasn't scoring, he was helping someone else, Schumacher said.

"We were just going to try to surround him," Schumacher said. "The problem with that is he's a very good passer, too."

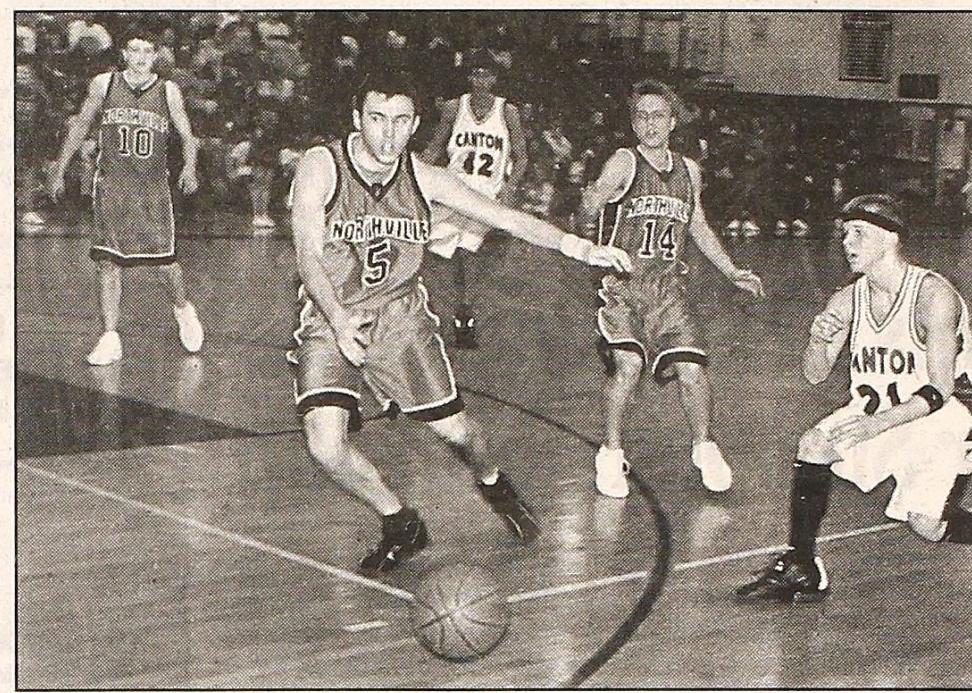
Dominique Washington hit a key three-pointer with about three minutes left to bring the Rocks to within three points, but Hoskins fouled out just after that. The score remained close until Adam Konst was fouled with about 30 seconds left in the game. He went to the line and sank both shots, all but sealing it for the Mustangs.

"If (Hoskins) had still been in there, I had no doubt that they would have come back against us," Schumacher said. "We were hanging on by our fingernails."

Konst finished with 16 points on the night for the Mustangs. Scott McNeish also put up 16 points and Roger Garfield contributed nine and kept the Mustangs moving in a support role.

"He was super in a field generalship role," Schumacher said. "He kept up the tempo when things got helter skelter."

Hoskins finished with 28



points on the night, despite the early departure.

The Mustangs followed that up with a win Friday night against the Canton Chiefs at Canton High School.

The Mustangs took a lead in the first quarter, but were down for most of the rest of the game until they rallied in the fourth to steal away a 45-42 victory.

It was 12-9 in Northville's favor after the first period. Canton went on a 15-12 run in the second, though, sparked by D. J.

Bridges, who put up eight points in that quarter alone. The Chiefs held a 24-22 advantage at the half.

Canton bolstered their lead in the third quarter, scoring nine points and giving the Mustangs only four.

"Neither of us were doing an awful lot in the third," Schumacher said. "We were always playing defense, but so were they."

The fourth quarter spelled the difference for the Mustangs. They

The Mustangs and the Chiefs proved fairly evenly matched, and Northville had to be patient to take the lead. Nobody on their team scored more than seven points, but a well-rounded effort paid off in the end. Canton hosts Walled Lake Western tomorrow night and Northville is off until Tuesday, when they play Livonia Franklin.

Photo by R. Alwood, Jr.

clamped down on their defensive efforts and the offense came alive as they put 19 points on the board.

Canton put up nine, but Northville slowly edged away. Jeff Varley hit a big three-pointer with about three minutes left that took the wind out of Canton's sails, Schumacher said.

"I think we stole that one," Schumacher said. "I feel very fortunate to come away with a win."

See Hoops, page 15

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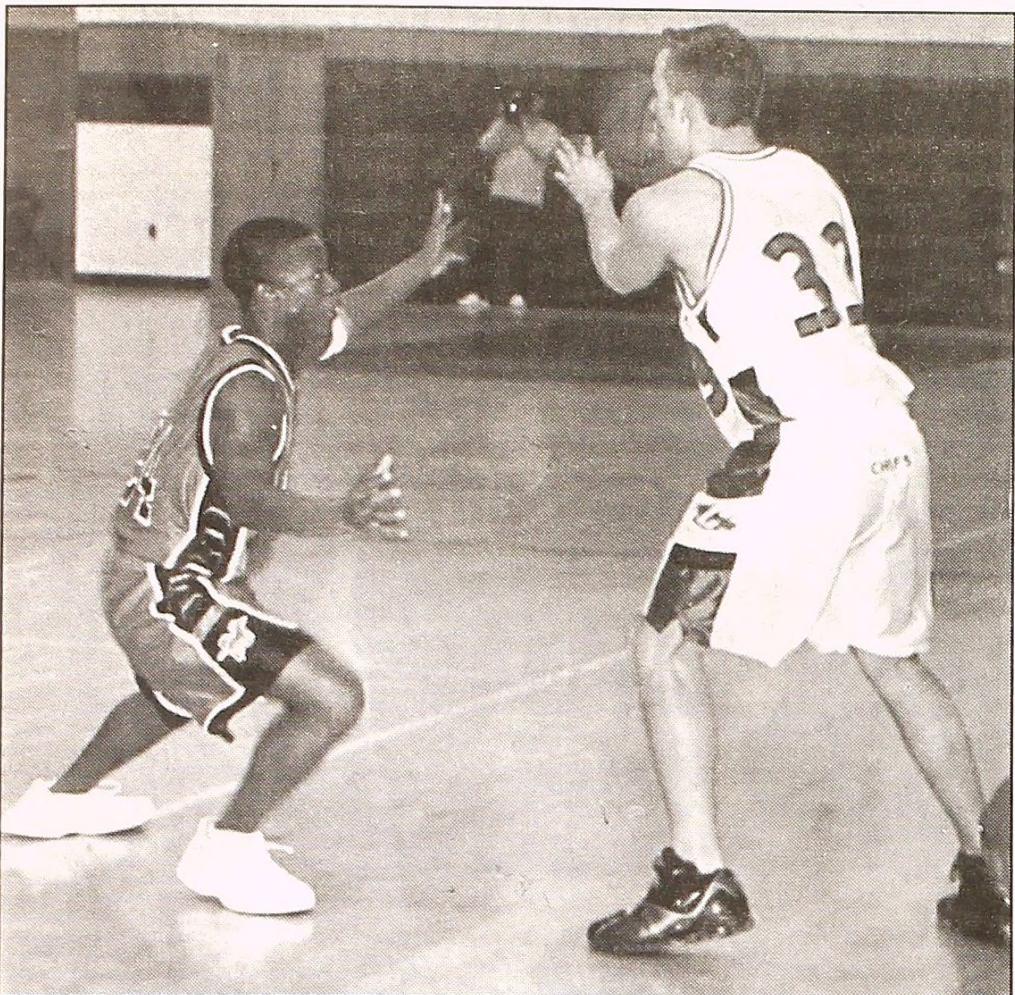
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The Northville Mustangs used a well-balanced scoring attack to knock off the Canton Chiefs Friday night.

Hoops - Wins put Mustangs ahead, for now

FROM PAGE 14

It wasn't a big night for any single Mustang, but nearly everyone had a hand in the win. All but four players scored in the effort. Konst led the team with seven points. Garfield, Tim Singleton, Mark Sorenson and Marcus Davis all had six points. McNeish ended up with five. Bridges led the Chiefs with 19.

The Mustangs are 10-4 overall and 4-1 in the division.

They played Walled Lake Central Tuesday night, but the outcome of that game wasn't known at press time. Tomorrow they host Churchill.

"You've got to be careful with Churchill," said Schumacher. "They're on the verge of breaking out and you don't want to be their coming out party."

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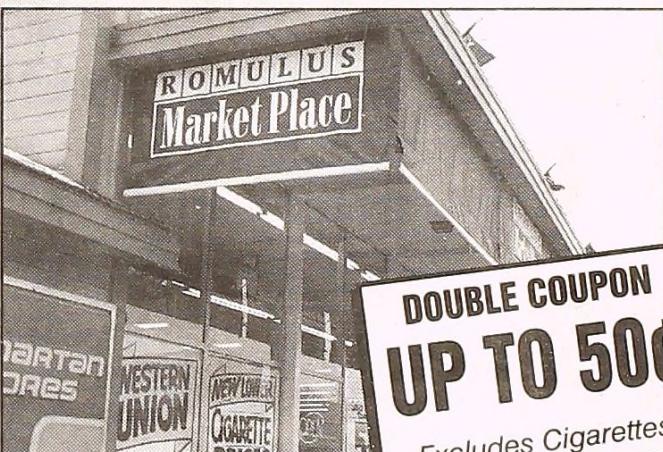
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JOURNAL

Plymouth Whalers rally during difficult week

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Plymouth Whalers finished out an off week Sunday night with a disappointing loss to the Brampton Battalion. It was their second loss in three games.

The Whalers led throughout the entire contest Sunday night when they traveled to Brampton to take on the second-place Battalion. They blew a third period lead, though, and fell 4-3.

Ryan Ramsay continued his strong play for the Whalers. He put them on the board at the 8:33 mark of the first period off a feed from Chad LaRose and Karl Stewart.

Brampton got that right back when Ryan Oulahen scored his first of the night.

Tim Sestito put the Whalers back on top at the 1:10 mark of the second period, and the two teams shuttled the puck around for the rest of the middle frame. James Wisniewski and Chris Thorburn assisted on the Sestito tally. Each team had a few opportunities, but neither could convert.

Oulahen tied the game again less than a minute into the third period.

Thorburn put the Whalers ahead again at the 4:07 mark and it looked like the Whalers were heading for their second straight victory. The Battalion shocked Plymouth with two goals in the

last five minutes of the game to steal the victory away from the first-place Whalers.

Plymouth outshot the Battalion 38-20.

Plymouth 3, Owen Sound 1

The only win for the Whalers came against the Owen Sound Attack, who hosted Plymouth Saturday night.

Ryan Ramsay again led the Plymouth team; he had a goal and an assist in the victory.

The first period of that game went by without a goal, but Plymouth put up two goals in the second period.

The first came from Jonas Fiedler, who capitalized on a breakaway for an unassisted goal at the 6:28 mark.

Cole Jarrett made the most of a power play opportunity at the 10:26 mark, off a feed from LaRose and Ramsay.

The Battalion broke up Jeff Weber's shutout at the 10:40 mark of the third and came within one, but Ramsay put the game away with an unassisted goal at the 14:17 mark.

Toronto 2, Plymouth 1

The Whalers started their busy weekend Friday night with a home game against the Toronto St. Michaels in front of 3,600 Whalers' faithful. It was their first loss after another long string – nine games – with no losses.

The sold-out crowd watched



The Plymouth Whalers suffered through a tough time last week when they uncharacteristically lost two out of three games. They remain in first place with a solid lead over Sarnia, who has won five straight contests. This weekend, the Whalers are at home on Friday and Saturday, when they face the Owen Sound Attack and the Oshawa Generals. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

their team battle from behind, but fall just short behind a strong defensive effort from Toronto goalie Andy Chiodo.

He kept the Whalers off the scoreboard until the third period, when LaRose finally broke through.

The St. Michaels took the lead in the second period when Frantisek Lukes beat Whaler Goalie Paul Drew at the 3:29

mark.

The Whalers had plenty of opportunities to get the goal back, but they couldn't capitalize on any one of them.

LaRose got his tally at the 3:12 mark of the third period, but Chiodo was too tough to let any others by him. He turned away 32 shots on the night.

The Whalers are now 31-10-8-1, with 71 points. They're in first

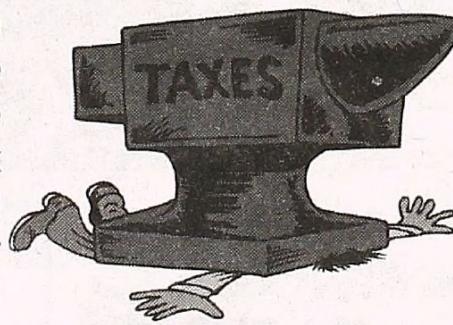
place in the OHL West Division, five points ahead of the surging Sarnia Sting. The Sting have won five games in a row and are 30-14-5.

Plymouth is home all weekend at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township. They host Owen Sound on Friday and the Oshawa Generals on Saturday. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

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1B3BP48D0NN247047
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Romulus tops Carlton but falls against River Rouge

Scott Spielman
Editor

History repeated itself last week for the Romulus Eagles basketball team. They split their two games for the third consecutive week, taking an easy victory from Carleton Airport last Tuesday but giving up one nearly as easily Friday night at River Rouge.

Coach Nate Oats said there wasn't too much doubt when the Eagles hosted Carleton Airport last Tuesday.

They rode a solid first half to a

71-43 victory over the Jets.

The Eagles took a 14-11 advantage in the first and a 36-21 victory at half time. They only gave up seven points in the third quarter and scored 17 before rounding out the game with a 19-15 advantage in the fourth quarter.

"It was kind of a fun game," Oats said. "We jumped out on them early."

Ron Coleman led the Eagles with 19 points in the win. Keaton Armstrong put up 16 points and brought back seven rebounds. Oats said he put 13 players in the game, and everyone scored.

The Eagles didn't have as much fun Friday night, though, when they traveled to River Rouge to take on the Panthers. They outscored the Panthers 19-18 in the fourth quarter, but their rally was too little, too late.

"We didn't play very well at all," Oats said.

River Rouge jumped out to a 16-11 lead at the end of the first quarter and shot their way to a 31-21 advantage at half time. Romulus got as close as five points in the third quarter, but the Panthers went on a big run and put the game away.

The Eagles didn't score a single three-pointer all night, according to Oats.

"They played a good zone defense," he said. "It's hard to get a win when they're playing a good zone and you can't hit a shot."

Coleman again led the team with 18 points and had 19 rebounds to back it up.

"It was a decent game for him, but he didn't shoot too well," Oats said. Coleman was 0-for-6 from the three-point range and only six of 11 from the floor.

The Panthers had two players

rack up 23 points on them, Prentis Turner and Andre Calvin.

The Eagles face another tough week this week, too, according to Oats. They played Ypsilanti on Tuesday and they travel to Belleville on Friday. The first time the Eagles played the two teams, each contest was decided by a single basket. They beat Ypsilanti by two points but lost to Belleville by the same score.

"It's not an easy schedule to try to rebound from," Oats said. "If we get these two we'll be sitting pretty good, but it'll take a lot to get those two."

Canton rebounds against tough loss to rival Salem

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Canton Chiefs hockey team rebounded from a disheartening loss last week to their cross campus rivals the Salem Rocks to snatch a victory from Walled Lake Central, 2-1.

"We came out a bit flat," said Canton Coach Dan Abraham. "I think we were coming off the emotional fight of the Salem game. We played just well enough to win."

The Chiefs had to come from behind to top the Vikings, who scored just six seconds into the game.

They won the opening face off, but a defenceman fell down and the Vikings were right there to sneak the puck past a startled Charles Kemp, in the goal for the Chiefs.

"I've never seen anything like it," Abraham said. Kemp stood on his head for the rest of the game, though, and turned away all other shots to earn the victory.

"He played pretty well," Abraham said.

Kyle Tollison put the Chiefs on the board in the second period when he tallied on a power play goal. Greg Kubert and Matt Olliver got assists.

The score stayed the same through much of the second period and most of the

third, according to Abraham.

Matt Gabriel broke the deadlock and scored the eventual game-winner with 3:59 left to go in the game. Dave Commisskey got the assist.

Abraham said it was a good win after last Wednesday's 7-1 loss against the Rocks.

"We needed to come back and get a win after the Salem loss. Things are always tough when we play those guys," he said. "They may have stopped our streak, but we won the game before and we won the

game after. We'll get right back to where we need to be."

The Chiefs traveled to Franklin High School to play the Patriots last night in a game that would decide who remains in first place in the league. When the two teams met up on Dec. 13, it was a one-point victory for Franklin and the last loss before the Chiefs went on a 7-0 tear.

"We had our chances to win that game and I think we'll match up well with them again," Abraham said. Canton is 11-7 overall.

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